

NATURE EDUCATION

So, You Want to Build and/or Put up A Nest Box!

A great stewardship practice in urban areas is to provide nest boxes for cavity nesting species such as Bluebird, Tree Swallow, Chickadee, Carolina Wren, Screech Owl, Kestrel and even Prothonotary warblers and Wood ducks!

Whether you build your own or purchase a nest box, you will need to do a little studying ahead of time to learn the best location, height and angles to install a box to attract the birds and give them the safest nesting spots possible.

Bluebird style boxes also require routine monitoring during nesting season from March through September. Boxes that do not get monitored will get taken over by invasive European House sparrows, who will break eggs and even kill the adults of our native species. If you want to build a box, but not monitor it, you can donate the box (be sure and date and initial or sign your name on the bottom!) to an existing bird box trail monitor or the City of Dublin. We utilize new boxes to expand trails and replace old and worn out boxes.

If you decide to install a box, visit this site for detailed instructions on how and when to monitor your box, how to examine eggs and nestlings and ideally, record your data to report to the Ohio Bluebird Society as part of the annual nest box counts! Most people find it to be a rewarding family activity to observe birds raising their families successfully with your help! Bluebirds and Tree Swallows come to know you as a regular visitor to their nests and wait patiently while you clean boxes or check eggs and babies!

February and early March is the time to install nest boxes! Even if you do not monitor any nest boxes, be sure to visit any of our 60+ Dublin parks to watch birds, observe nesting activity and enjoy a relaxing connection with nature!

If you are interested in seeing a great variety of birds, one of the best birding sites in Ohio is our very own Kiwanis Riverway Park. Over 120 different bird species, including many Neotropical migrants and warbler species, osprey and eagles, can be seen throughout the year. Entry to Kiwanis Park is at the Quarry Place driveway off of Riverside Drive, immediately south of Bridge Street and Riverside Crossing Park.

Happy Birding and enjoy the cavity nesters in Dublin!

Bluebird Box Plans and Monitoring Information: <https://ohiobluebirdsociety.org/>



Screech Owl, Barn Owl, Kestrel, Wood Duck and many other species' Nest Box Plans at Cornell Ornithology Lab NestWatch site: <https://nestwatch.org/learn/all-about-birdhouses/birds/american-kestrel/>

Features of a Good Nest Box from Nestwatch: <https://nestwatch.org/learn/all-about-birdhouses/features-of-a-good-birdhouse/>



Wood Duck Box

Barn Owl Box





Best Screech Owl and Kestrel Nest Box Styles



Screech Owl Boxes

Bluebird Nestbox with Predator Guard



Multiple Nest boxes to attract Bluebirds and Tree Swallows



EVERYTHING GROWS HERE.



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